

**From:** Domenech, Douglas  
**To:** [Scott Hommel](#); [Nancy Guiden](#); [Mashburn, Lori](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [James Cason](#); [Megan Bloomgren](#)  
**Subject:** Interior Cabinet Affairs report for 3/21/17  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 1:45:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 3-21-17.docx](#)

---

## **DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 3/21/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

### **Status of the Secretary**

**The Secretary will be in Washington this week.**

### **Media Announcements Today**

No press releases but the Department did allow the **Rusty Patched Bumble Bee** to go on the endangered species list after the 60-day review. This is notable because it's the first pollinator to go on the ESA list. Here is our statement - "FWS previously delayed the effective date of the final listing determination for the rusty patched bumble bee under the Endangered Species Act from February 10, 2017 to today (March 21, 2017) to allow for standard review. Fish and Wildlife Service scientists have noted that the brief delay is not expected to have an impact on the conservation of the species since FWS is still developing a recovery plan to guide efforts to bring this species back to what they believe is a healthy and secure condition. We will work with stakeholders to ensure collaborative conservation among landowners, farmers, industry, and developers in the areas where the species is native."

### **Executive Orders**

Latest news is that I understand EO on Energy is next week (perhaps on Monday). Of note, the Secretary is on travel Thursday and Friday next week.

### **Congressional Action Under the CRA**

The BLM Planning 2.0 Rule CRA is pending at the White House. We assume that the Secretary would participate in any signing ceremony. Asking when this will happen.

**CRAs:** Passed the House, Pending in the Senate.

- BLM Venting and Flaring Methane Rule
- FWS H.J.Res.69 - "Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska". Understand this is headed to the Senate floor perhaps as early as today.

### **Secretary Meetings and Schedule**

3/30-4/1: Participate in the 100<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the purchase of the Virgin Islands from Denmark. The Danish Prime Minister will participate.

Waiting on Resolution of these items: (working with IGA)

The Secretary is requesting that he attend this important event at the request of the President.

The Secretary is requesting military aircraft assistance with this trip.

The Secretary is requesting the White House provide a Proclamation and/or letter he can read from the President acknowledging the commemoration. Interior has provided a draft.

## **Speaking Invitations**

Accepted

3/23 Address to the American Petroleum Institute's Board of Directors Meeting (DC, Trump Hotel)

3/28 Public Lands Council Legislative Conference Luncheon Keynote 12:00-1:00 Liaison Hotel in DC

3/30-31 U.S. Virgin Islands Transfer Centennial Commission (St. Croix, St. Thomas)

4/3 North America's Building Trades Unions National Legislative Conference Remarks at the Washington Hilton & Towers Hotel, timing TBD.

4/5-7 National Ocean Industries Assoc (NOIA) 2017 Annual Meeting (DC, Ritz Carlton)

4/14 Montana State Meeting of the Society of American Foresters (Missoula, MT)

4/19 American Forest Resource Council 2017 Annual Meeting (Stevenson, WA)

4/27 NRA Leadership Forum, George World Congress Center in Atlanta, GA.

Regretted

3/20 Address to the National Water Resources Association's Federal Water Issues Conference

3/23 Address the Student Conservation Association's 60th Anniversary Commemoration (DC)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

4/5 Association of Equipment Distributors & Equipment Dealers Association (DC, Liaison Hotel)

4/13 Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy's Global Energy Summit (NYC)

## **Emergency Management**

The Parliament Fire, which began March 18 on Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida (NPS), has burned 4,275 (+1,275) acres and is 0 (-5)-percent contained. The fire is being managed by a Type-4 Incident Management Team with 24 (+15) personnel assigned, including 8 (+6) DOI personnel. There are 14 (+10) residential structures threatened. In addition to the residential structures, the fire is threatening endangered species habitat and other private holdings. Major concerns for this reporting period are smoke impacting highway movement and access for firefighters. The containment date for this fire remains March 26.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) reports that the Dickinson Dam, in North Dakota, has entered into a Response Level 1. The rising reservoir level is due to snowmelt and recent rainfall in the area; however, at Response Level 1, there is no immediate risk to the downstream population. USBR and the Interior Operations Center will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as warranted.

The USGS Post Falls and Boise offices in Idaho deployed crews in response to a warming trend and multiple storms bringing rain to high elevation snowpack. Rapid Deployment gages have been installed along the Boise River in southwestern Idaho and Big Canyon Creek in north-central Idaho. USGS is also working with the National Weather Service, USBR, and the Idaho Department of Transportation to ensure un-gaged river and stream reaches are monitored for public safety.

## **Media of Interest**

### **Budget Losses Could Point To Secretaries' Lack Of Influence.**

E&E Publishing (3/20) reports that “despite publicly vowing to fight proposed budget cuts and to defend certain programs, the heads of U.S. EPA and the Interior and Energy departments lost their battles with the White House.” Notably, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “promised to fight — and win — against the White House’s initially floated 10 percent slash, but the budget blueprint proposed a 12 percent cut.”

### **Eisenhower Memorial Could Break Ground As Early As September.**

Roll Call (3/21, Akin) reports that “construction could begin as early as September on a proposed memorial for President Dwight D. Eisenhower,” according to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission and the chairman of the House committee that oversees the funding for the project. Rep. Ken Calvert, the chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, said, “I don’t think there are any obstacles in front of us. We need to get it done. Our World War II heroes are leaving us very quickly.” However, “completing the project would require a significant commitment from Congress at a time when it is being asked by the Trump administration to make deep and painful cuts to federal funding for domestic programs.”

### **House Committee Subpanel To Hold hearing On Shortcomings At BSEE.**

The Hill (3/20, Cama, Henry) reports that “a House Natural Resources Committee subpanel will hold a hearing on an imminent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on shortcomings at the Interior Department’s Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.” GAO’s energy director Frank Rusco will testify, as will Richard Cardinale, Interior’s acting secretary for lands and minerals.

### **Trump Says He Is Keeping Promises To Kentucky’s Miners.**

In an interview with WDRB-TV Louisville, KY (3/20, 10:01 p.m. EDT), President Trump was asked why he was focusing on Kentucky. Trump said, “Well, I’ve been with them and they’ve been with me. Kentucky has been one of our great states and I love the people of Kentucky. The miners, we are putting them back to work. We’ve already signed legislation environmentally that allows the mines to start reopening and keep open. And I made a lot of promises to the miners, and I’m keeping those promises, so I wanted to come back here and tell them that.” Reuters (3/20) briefly reported on the interview.

### **Flagging for Special Interest**

#### **Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument Dedication To Be Held In April.**

Alabama Live (3/20, Garrison) reports that the National Park Service and “local partners will host a celebration of the new Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument next month.” The dedication will be held Saturday, April 15 outside the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. Stan Austin, regional director for the National Park Service, said, “We look forward to dedicating the new Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument with our partners who were central to the park’s establishment. The park preserves and interprets an important chapter in America’s modern civil rights movement.”

**White House Communications Report** (sent to WH Comms yesterday, Monday.)

### **Inquiries**

- POLITICO (Anthony Adragna) EE News (Dylan Byers) Axios (Ben German) S&P Platts (Brian Scheid) – REQUEST – Comment on claims made by Senators Cardin and Luger that the U.S. is withdrawing from the international Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). – RESPONSE - "The Department remains committed to the principles and goals of EITI including transparency and good governance of the extractive sectors and are institutionalizing and mainstreaming EITI goals into how the Department manages its revenues. No decision has been made on applying for validation under the EITI standard and the U.S. is not even scheduled to begin the validation process until April of 2018 (per the EITI International Board schedule published regularly). The United States has led the global initiative in providing revenue-related data and information from the extraction of oil, natural gas, coal and other minerals on federal land in an interactive, open-source data portal and regularly engaging with other implementing countries to share our best practices."
- CNN – REQUEST – Hearing Zinke will fly to Utah this week for an announcement regarding Bears Ears. Is this true? – RESPONSE – Not True.
- Great Falls Tribune (MT) ABC/Fox Montana and NBC Montana – REQUEST – would like a statement on the President's budget cuts to BLM and DOI in Montana. – RESPONSE – Directed reporters to the press release for DOI and supplied this comment from BLM, "The President's budget blueprint supports the Bureau of Land Management's multiple use mandate and prioritizes energy and minerals development. Details of the budget are expected in the coming weeks, but the blueprint demonstrates the Administration's strong fiscal responsibility and support for America's public lands."

## Top Stories

- AP: Bears Ears Commission Seeks Meeting With Secretary Zinke.
- Livingston Enterprise (MT) Secretary Zinke visits Yellowstone Park
- EE News: Lease foes vow to be 'scrappier than ever' post-moratorium
- E&E News: U.S. opts out of transparency effort for oil, coal firms
- E&E News: Trump vetting picks for assistant secretary, NPS and FWS
- KPAX TV (MT): Montanans voice concerns over proposed Interior Dept. budget cut ...

## Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Preparing to support Coal/Climate EO
- FYIs – The Department will issue press releases this week on the following American Energy activity
  - o March 20-23 - DOI will release a number of small coal lease sales in Utah, Ohio, ND.
  - o Offshore oil/gas sale

- o Offshore wind energy
  - . Tomorrow the endangered species listing of the Rusty Patched Bumblebee will go into effect. The effective date was delayed for the Priebus memo. This was a very controversial delay, DOI is being sued by two environmental groups about it.
  - . Launching a “Travels with Z” blog on our website that is Secretary Zinke’s travel blog going to America’s public lands and his work on the front lines improving land management for multiple use (energy, recreation, conservation, economy)

### **Federal Register Notices Cleared for Publishing (None Significant)**

No items were cleared for the Federal Register on Monday.

REG0006854 BLM Notice of Public Meeting for the Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council The Southeast Oregon RAC meeting will be held on Monday, April 10, 2017, and Tuesday, April 11, 2017 in Ontario, OR. Notice 03/20/2017

REG0006855 BLM Notice of Public Meeting, Boise District Resource Advisory Council, Idaho The 15-member RAC advises the Secretary of the Interior on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in Idaho. The Boise District RAC meeting will be held on April 5, 2017, at the BLM Boise District Office. Notice 03/20/2017

Doug Domenech  
Senior Advisor  
US Department of the Interior

## DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 3/21/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

### **Status of the Secretary**

The Secretary will be in Washington this week.

### **Media Announcements Today**

No press releases but the Department did allow the **Rusty Patched Bumble Bee** to go on the endangered species list after the 60-day review. This is notable because it's the first pollinator to go on the ESA list. Here is our statement - "FWS previously delayed the effective date of the final listing determination for the rusty patched bumble bee under the Endangered Species Act from February 10, 2017 to today (March 21, 2017) to allow for standard review. Fish and Wildlife Service scientists have noted that the brief delay is not expected to have an impact on the conservation of the species since FWS is still developing a recovery plan to guide efforts to bring this species back to what they believe is a healthy and secure condition. We will work with stakeholders to ensure collaborative conservation among landowners, farmers, industry, and developers in the areas where the species is native."

### **Executive Orders**

Latest news is that I understand EO on Energy is next week (perhaps on Monday). Of note, the Secretary is on travel Thursday and Friday next week.

### **Congressional Action Under the CRA**

The BLM Planning 2.0 Rule CRA is pending at the White House. We assume that the Secretary would participate in any signing ceremony. Asking when this will happen.

**CRAs:** Passed the House, Pending in the Senate.

- BLM Venting and Flaring Methane Rule
- FWS H.J.Res.69 - "Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska". Understand this is headed to the Senate floor perhaps as early as today.

### **Secretary Meetings and Schedule**

3/30-4/1: Participate in the 100<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the purchase of the Virgin Islands from Denmark. The Danish Prime Minister will participate.

Waiting on Resolution of these items: (working with IGA)

The Secretary is requesting that he attend this important event at the request of the President.

The Secretary is requesting military aircraft assistance with this trip.

The Secretary is requesting the White House provide a Proclamation and/or letter he can read from the President acknowledging the commemoration. Interior has provided a draft.

### **Speaking Invitations**

Accepted

3/23 Address to the American Petroleum Institute's Board of Directors Meeting (DC, Trump Hotel)

3/28 Public Lands Council Legislative Conference Luncheon Keynote 12:00-1:00 Liaison Hotel in DC

3/30-31 U.S. Virgin Islands Transfer Centennial Commission (St. Croix, St. Thomas)

4/3 North America's Building Trades Unions National Legislative Conference Remarks at the Washington Hilton & Towers Hotel, timing TBD.

4/5-7 National Ocean Industries Assoc (NOIA) 2017 Annual Meeting (DC, Ritz Carlton)

4/14 Montana State Meeting of the Society of American Foresters (Missoula, MT)

4/19 American Forest Resource Council 2017 Annual Meeting (Stevenson, WA)

4/27 NRA Leadership Forum, George World Congress Center in Atlanta, GA.

#### Regretted

3/20 Address to the National Water Resources Association's Federal Water Issues Conference

3/23 Address the Student Conservation Association's 60th Anniversary Commemoration (DC)

#### Outstanding Invitations in Process

4/5 Association of Equipment Distributors & Equipment Dealers Association (DC, Liaison Hotel)

4/13 Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy's Global Energy Summit (NYC)

#### **Emergency Management**

The Parliament Fire, which began March 18 on Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida (NPS), has burned 4,275 (+1,275) acres and is 0 (-5)-percent contained. The fire is being managed by a Type-4 Incident Management Team with 24 (+15) personnel assigned, including 8 (+6) DOI personnel. There are 14 (+10) residential structures threatened. In addition to the residential structures, the fire is threatening endangered species habitat and other private holdings. Major concerns for this reporting period are smoke impacting highway movement and access for firefighters. The containment date for this fire remains March 26.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) reports that the Dickinson Dam, in North Dakota, has entered into a Response Level 1. The rising reservoir level is due to snowmelt and recent rainfall in the area; however, at Response Level 1, there is no immediate risk to the downstream population. USBR and the Interior Operations Center will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as warranted.

The USGS Post Falls and Boise offices in Idaho deployed crews in response to a warming trend and multiple storms bringing rain to high elevation snowpack. Rapid Deployment gages have been installed along the Boise River in southwestern Idaho and Big Canyon Creek in north-central Idaho. USGS is also working with the National Weather Service, USBR, and the Idaho Department of Transportation to ensure un-gaged river and stream reaches are monitored for public safety.

#### **Media of Interest**

##### **Budget Losses Could Point To Secretaries' Lack Of Influence.**

E&E Publishing (3/20) reports that "despite publicly vowing to fight proposed budget cuts and to defend certain programs, the heads of U.S. EPA and the Interior and Energy departments lost their battles with the White House." Notably, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "promised to fight — and win — against the White House's initially floated 10 percent slash, but the budget blueprint proposed a 12 percent cut."

##### **Eisenhower Memorial Could Break Ground As Early As September.**

Roll Call (3/21, Akin) reports that "construction could begin as early as September on a proposed memorial for President Dwight D. Eisenhower," according to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission and the chairman of the House committee that oversees the funding for the project. Rep. Ken Calvert, the chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, said, "I don't think there are any obstacles in front of us. We need to get it done. Our

World War II heroes are leaving us very quickly." However, "completing the project would require a significant commitment from Congress at a time when it is being asked by the Trump administration to make deep and painful cuts to federal funding for domestic programs."

#### **House Committee Subpanel To Hold hearing On Shortcomings At BSEE.**

The Hill (3/20, Cama, Henry) reports that "a House Natural Resources Committee subpanel will hold a hearing on an imminent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on shortcomings at the Interior Department's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement." GAO's energy director Frank Rusco will testify, as will Richard Cardinale, Interior's acting secretary for lands and minerals.

#### **Trump Says He Is Keeping Promises To Kentucky's Miners.**

In an interview with WDRB-TV Louisville, KY (3/20, 10:01 p.m. EDT), President Trump was asked why he was focusing on Kentucky. Trump said, "Well, I've been with them and they've been with me. Kentucky has been one of our great states and I love the people of Kentucky. The miners, we are putting them back to work. We've already signed legislation environmentally that allows the mines to start reopening and keep open. And I made a lot of promises to the miners, and I'm keeping those promises, so I wanted to come back here and tell them that." Reuters (3/20) briefly reported on the interview.

#### **Flagging for Special Interest**

##### **Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument Dedication To Be Held In April.**

Alabama Live (3/20, Garrison) reports that the National Park Service and "local partners will host a celebration of the new Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument next month." The dedication will be held Saturday, April 15 outside the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. Stan Austin, regional director for the National Park Service, said, "We look forward to dedicating the new Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument with our partners who were central the park's establishment. The park preserves and interprets an important chapter in America's modern civil rights movement."

#### **White House Communications Report (sent to WH Comms yesterday, Monday.)**

##### **Inquiries**

- POLITICO (Anthony Adragna) EE News (Dylan Byers) Axios (Ben German) S&P Platts (Brian Scheid) – REQUEST – Comment on claims made by Senators Cardin and Luger that the U.S. is withdrawing from the international Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). – RESPONSE - "The Department remains committed to the principles and goals of EITI including transparency and good governance of the extractive sectors and are institutionalizing and mainstreaming EITI goals into how the Department manages its revenues. No decision has been made on applying for validation under the EITI standard and the U.S. is not even scheduled to begin the validation process until April of 2018 (per the EITI International Board schedule published regularly). The United States has led the global initiative in providing revenue-related data and information from the extraction of oil, natural gas, coal and other minerals on federal land in an interactive, open-source data portal and regularly engaging with other implementing countries to share our best practices."
- CNN – REQUEST – Hearing Zinke will fly to Utah this week for an announcement regarding Bears Ears. Is this true? – RESPONSE – Not True.
- Great Falls Tribune (MT) ABC/Fox Montana and NBC Montana – REQUEST – would like a statement on the President's budget cuts to BLM and DOI in Montana. – RESPONSE – Directed reporters to the press release for DOI and supplied this comment from BLM, "The President's budget blueprint supports the Bureau of Land Management's multiple use mandate and prioritizes energy and minerals development. Details of the budget are expected in the coming weeks, but the blueprint demonstrates the Administration's strong fiscal responsibility and support for America's public lands."

## **Top Stories**

- AP: Bears Ears Commission Seeks Meeting With Secretary Zinke.
- Livingston Enterprise (MT) Secretary Zinke visits Yellowstone Park
- EE News: Lease foes vow to be 'scrappier than ever' post-moratorium
- E&E News: U.S. opts out of transparency effort for oil, coal firms
- E&E News: Trump vetting picks for assistant secretary, NPS and FWS
- KPAX TV (MT): Montanans voice concerns over proposed Interior Dept. budget cut ...

## **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- Preparing to support Coal/Climate EO
- FYIs – The Department will issue press releases this week on the following American Energy activity
  - o March 20-23 - DOI will release a number of small coal lease sales in Utah, Ohio, ND.
  - o Offshore oil/gas sale
  - o Offshore wind energy
- Tomorrow the endangered species listing of the Rusty Patched Bumblebee will go into effect. The effective date was delayed for the Priebus memo. This was a very controversial delay, DOI is being sued by two environmental groups about it.
- Launching a "Travels with Z" blog on our website that is Secretary Zinke's travel blog going to America's public lands and his work on the front lines improving land management for multiple use (energy, recreation, conservation, economy)

## **Federal Register Notices Cleared for Publishing (None Significant)**

No items were cleared for the Federal Register on Monday.

REG0006854 BLM Notice of Public Meeting for the Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council  
The Southeast Oregon RAC meeting will be held on Monday, April 10, 2017, and Tuesday, April 11, 2017 in Ontario, OR. Notice 03/20/2017

REG0006855 BLM Notice of Public Meeting, Boise District Resource Advisory Council, Idaho The 15-member RAC advises the Secretary of the Interior on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in Idaho. The Boise District RAC meeting will be held on April 5, 2017, at the BLM Boise District Office. Notice 03/20/2017